

# Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

September 5, 2007

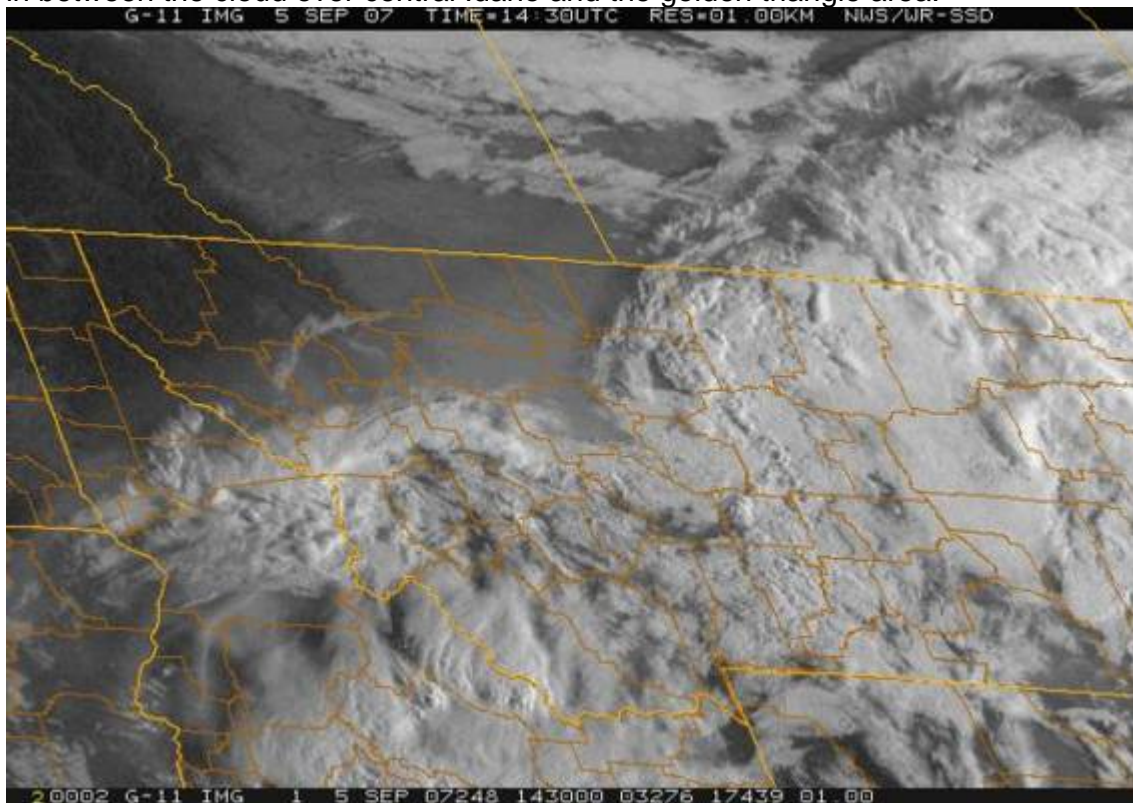
10:00 AM Wednesday

## FORECAST:

Smoke is trapped in western Montana valleys this morning under the cloud cover producing unhealthy smoke levels in many areas.

Smoke will continue to rotate around the low pressure in southern Idaho bringing smoke into western Montana. Dispersion will be pretty good this afternoon with scattered showers and some convective activity. Cooler temperatures and higher humidity should reduce the smoke production on the fires that did not receive rain last night. This should allow the smoke levels in the western valleys to improve through the day. Residents noticing smoke from local fires or residual smoke from fires upwind of their location should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

A morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls is below: Note the smoke visible in between the cloud over central Idaho and the golden triangle area.



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage).

# NO GRAPHIC AVAILABLE FROM NOAA TODAY

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

[http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq\\_fire2.php](http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php)

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

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### **DISCUSSION:**

There is still a lot of smoke hanging around this morning under the cloud cover. Kalispell, Missoula Hamilton, and Butte are at [UNHEALTHY](#), and Whitefish and Helena are at [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#). Smoke conditions in the Big Hole Valley and Flint Creek/Rock Creek valley are also probably [UNHEALTHY](#). Slow improvement is expected in most areas through the day.

The advisories in the table below represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day. Residents downwind of the active fires and experiencing impacts from residual smoke will need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to determine current conditions.

[John Coefield](#)

Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

**Updated 10 AM September 5, 2007**

These advisories represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day.

<a href="#">HAZARDOUS</a>	
<a href="#">VERY UNHEALTHY</a>	
<a href="#">UNHEALTHY</a>	Missoula T24 Kalispell T24 Butte T24 Hamilton T24
<a href="#">UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</a>	Whitefish T1 Helena T24
<a href="#">MODERATE</a>	

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.